

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4055

To amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to eliminate congressional review of newly passed District laws.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 1998

Ms. NORTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to eliminate congressional review of newly passed District laws.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES IN ACT.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “District of Columbia Legislative Autonomy Act of 1998”.

6 (b) REFERENCES IN ACT.—Whenever in this Act an
7 amendment is expressed in terms of an amendment to or
8 repeal of a section or other provision, the reference shall

1 be considered to be made to that section or other provision
 2 of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act.

3 **SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF**
 4 **NEWLY-PASSED DISTRICT LAWS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 602 (sec. 1-233, D.C.
 6 Code) is amended by striking subsection (c).

7 (b) CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTIONS OF DIS-
 8 APPROVAL.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The District of Columbia
 10 Home Rule Act is amended by striking section 604.

11 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
 12 tents is amended by striking the item relating to sec-
 13 tion 604.

14 (3) EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWER.—This
 15 subsection and the amendments made by this sub-
 16 section are enacted by Congress—

17 (A) as an exercise of the rulemaking power
 18 of the House of Representatives and the Sen-
 19 ate, respectively, and as such they shall be con-
 20 sidered as a part of the rules of each House, re-
 21 spectively, or of that House to which they spe-
 22 cifically apply, and such rules shall supersede
 23 other rules only to the extent that they are in-
 24 consistent therewith; and

1 (B) with full recognition of the constitu-
2 tional right of either House to change such
3 rules (so far as relating to such House) at any
4 time, in the same manner, and to the same ex-
5 tent as in the case of any other rule of such
6 House.

7 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(1) Section 303
8 (sec. 1-205, D.C. Code) is amended—

9 (A) in subsection (a), by striking the second
10 sentence; and

11 (B) by striking subsection (b) and redesignating
12 subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (b) and (c).

13 (2) Section 404(e) (sec. 1-227(e), D.C. Code) is
14 amended by striking “subject to the provisions of section
15 602(c)” each place it appears.

16 (3) Section 462 (sec. 47-322, D.C. Code) is amend-
17 ed—

18 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “(a) The
19 Council” and inserting “The Council”; and

20 (B) by striking subsections (b) and (c).

21 (4) Section 472(d) (sec. 47-328, D.C. Code) is
22 amended by striking “(1) Notwithstanding” and all that
23 follows through “(2)”.

24 (5) Section 2(b)(1) of Amendment No. 1 (relating to
25 initiative and referendum) to title IV (the District Char-

1 ter) (sec. 1-282(b)(1), D.C. Code) is amended by striking
 2 “the appropriate custodian” and all that follows through
 3 “portion of such act to”.

4 (6) Section 5 of Amendment No. 1 (relating to initia-
 5 tive and referendum) to title IV (the District Charter)
 6 (sec. 1-285, D.C. Code) is amended by striking “, and
 7 such act” and all that follows and inserting a period.

8 (7) Section 16 of the District of Columbia Election
 9 Code of 1955 (sec. 1-1320, D.C. Code)—

10 (A) in subsection (j)(2)—

11 (i) by striking “sections 404 and 602(c)”
 12 and inserting “section 404”, and

13 (ii) by striking the second sentence; and

14 (B) in subsection (m)—

15 (i) in the first sentence, by striking “the
 16 appropriate custodian” and all that follows
 17 through “parts of such act to”,

18 (ii) by striking “is held. If, however, after”
 19 and inserting “is held unless, under”, and

20 (iii) by striking “section, the act which”
 21 and all that follows and inserting “section.”.

22 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 23 this section shall apply with respect to each act of the Dis-
 24 trict of Columbia—

1 (1) passed by the Council of the District of Co-
2 lumbia and signed by the Mayor of the District of
3 Columbia;

4 (2) vetoed by the Mayor and repassed by the
5 Council;

6 (3) passed by the Council and allowed to be-
7 come effective by the Mayor without the Mayor's sig-
8 nature; and

9 (4) in the case of initiated acts and acts subject
10 to referendum, ratified by a majority of the reg-
11 istered qualified electors voting on the initiative or
12 referendum,

13 on or after October 1, 1998.

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